



Gurdjieff's quotes on Jesus & Judas

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He was speaking one day at lunch about how the teachings and the picture of Jesus have been distorted. Two of the visitors that day were Englishwomen, who began to talk in a rather sentimental manner about 'Jesus and his love'. Gurdjieff said: 'I hate your Jesus, poor Jewish boy'—the emphasis being on 'your'.

Moreover what could she see, this Muggy Muddalene (Mary Magdalene) you speak about? She see nothing, she only prostitute.

He said that Jesus knew his own nonentityness and should he return, he would be very angry that people thought he had said he was God.

What you learn from bible you wish believe, but your bible is one thing and my bible is quite another.

Nobody now believe in Christian thing, not with inner world, especially young ones. Nobody but English old maid and your American Lesbians. In General, man over there not believe. Your bible is hodgepodge.

In any other man I should have been sceptical of most of his tales; but certainly Georgiy Ivanovich

was out of the common theosophical ruck. If he really wanted to go anywhere, were it even to his mysterious monasteries in Tibet - in one of which, he said, echoing an Indian tradition, Jesus had studied!

C.E. Bechhofer Roberts

Was Christ a teacher with a school preparation, or was he an accidental genius?

Gurdjieff: Without knowledge he could not have been what he was, nor could he have done what he did. It is known that where he was there was knowledge.

But while for some people religion serves as guidance, for others it is only a policeman. Christ, too, was a magician, a man of Knowledge. He was not God, or rather He was God, but on a certain level.

A priest was a man who had "mixed substances" and therefore could use this to cure others. A priest was a magnetizer. Jesus Christ was also a magnetizer.

Let us suppose Jesus Christ to be man number eight.

The true meaning and significance of many events in the Gospels are almost forgotten now. For instance, the Last Supper was something quite different from what people usually think. What Christ mixed with bread and wine and gave to the disciples was really his blood.

The Last Supper was a magical ceremony similar to 'blood-brotherhood' for establishing a connection between 'astral bodies.' But who is there who knows about this in existing religions and who understands what it means? All this has been long forgotten and everything has been given quite a different meaning. The words have remained but their meaning has long been lost.

But, as a matter of fact, nobody understands what this was precisely, or what was done by Christ and his disciples that evening. There exists no explanation that even approximately resembles the truth, because what is written in the Gospels has been, in the first place, much distorted in being copied and translated; and secondly, it was written *for those who know*.

Christ knew that he must die. It had been decided thus beforehand. He knew it and his disciples knew it. And each one knew what part he had to play. But at the same time they wanted to establish a permanent link with Christ. And for this purpose he gave them his blood to drink and his flesh to eat. It was not bread and wine at all, but real flesh and real blood.

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His account of the Last Supper, the day before I gave my lecture, implied clearly that he knew of it by direct experience. (At that time I thought he himself had been Judas. Perhaps he was.) I remember also his refusal to answer a question about Pentecost, saying, "I do not know; I was not there."

J.G. Bennett

There is nothing new in the idea of sleep. People have been told almost since the creation of the world that they are asleep and that they must awaken. How many times is this said in the Gospels, for instance? 'Awake,' 'watch,' 'sleep not.' Christ's disciples even slept when he was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane for the last time. It is all there. But do men understand it? Men take it simply as a form of speech, as an expression, as a metaphor. They completely fail to understand that it must be

taken literally.

Questioner: I have tried to feel remorse of conscience, but the remorse overwhelms me. I cannot forget that it was from remorse that Judas hanged himself.

Gurdjieff: Why do you speak of Judas in this case? What do you know of Judas? He was a great initiate. He was the second disciple after St. John the Baptist. All that is told about him is false. If you wish to know, he was even the master of Christ.

Judas is universal type: he can enter into all situations - but he has no type of his own.

Once he spoke of the Last Supper and the role of Judas. He spoke in a rather low voice to me. He said that Judas was the best and closest friend of Jesus. Judas alone understood why Jesus was on earth. Judas had saved the work of Jesus from being destroyed, and by his action had made the life of humanity more or less tolerable for two thousand years. He then looked at me very intently, and said: "You know what I say of Judas and how differently the church teaches. Which do you believe is true?" What was I to answer?

J.G. Bennett

The crowded dining-room disappeared, and it seemed as if Gurdjieff were leading me back through the centuries to the Jerusalem of A.D. 33. It seemed that I had been there before, but this was not at all important. I was strongly aware of the prodigious forces at work—good forces and evil forces at war. Judas was unmistakably on the side of the good forces. That was all that I needed to know. In a moment we were back in the flat and I was speaking to Gurdjieff. "You are right. Judas was the friend of Jesus, and he was on the side of good." Gurdjieff said in a low voice: "I am pleased what you understand." He was almost inaudible, and someone asked from the end of the table if he would repeat it. He said: "I speak only for him. One day Mr. Bennett will give a conference on the Last Supper, and many people will be thankful to him."

J.G. Bennett

Tonight he talked about eating and food, and how eating with other people is a fundamental part of life. How this is a - not ceremony, not ritual - I forget the word - which Christ performed, and which he performs here, and afterwards someone else will sit in his place and this will go on. But, turning to Mr. B, Judas was the really important role in this. "Because of Judas, your Christ has been God for 2,000 years." Sometimes it was better to pray to Judas than to pray to God. When he is drunk he prays to Judas. "But then I all times drunk," so he always prays to Judas!

J.G. Bennett

He spoke very extravagantly about the role of Judas, as the only one really conscious self-sacrificing role. The truly Great One of the Christian event. Of Jesus as "only a little Jew," and so on. Separating that which was said merely to shock newcomers, there remains the consistent teaching of Judas as playing an all-important part without which Christianity as we know it would not have existed.

J.G. Bennett

There are 21 gradations of reason from that of the ordinary man to that of Our Endlessness, that is, God. No one can reach the Absolute Reason of God, and only the sons of God like Jesus Christ can have the two gradations of reason that are 19th and 20th.

It is said of Christ that he never laughed. And indeed you will find in the Gospels no indication or mention of the fact that at any time Christ laughed. In the higher centers there can be no laughter, because in higher centers there is no division, and no 'yes' and 'no.'

In the beginning Catholicism was very good, but then not. They searched for midday at two o'clock; they diluted everything. In the beginning it was superior to the Orthodox religion and to all others.

Old Jews believe Jesus Christ fed many people with six, seven fishes; you remember how many was, but how was filled, the people that not tell. Another example, they believe He turn water into wine, but who get drunk on such wine, that they not say. And once more, they believe He walk on water, but how deep was water, they not speak about that.

That day was when Jesus was baptized. In Armenian and some other countries, always birthday and baptism day are same day; Jesus was not baptized until twelve days after birth, and because of this you can make a joke in Armenia which is big insult, always make angry. You say, Jesus must have been a premature baby, they were afraid to baptize the day of birth, had to wait twelve days until he be strong enough and not die. This make Armenian very angry. But in many countries, Armenia also, Jesus is not the hero, but John the Baptist. From legomonism I know that he it was who was nurse to Jesus for first twelve years, in Essene Brotherhood; after this first twelve years, then in this company the responsibility to another give. This is the story how I know from legomonism.

These Old Testament stories can be more important than all the words of Jesus Christ.

Christ and all the others spoke of the death which can take place in life, the death of the tyrant from whom our slavery comes, that death which is a necessary condition of the first and principal liberation of man.

Only man number four strives to be a Christian and only man number five can actually be a Christian. For to be a Christian means to have the being of a Christian, that is, to live in accordance with Christ's precepts.

It is necessary to distinguish between dances and gymnastics—they are different things. We do not know whether his disciples danced, but we do know that where Christ got his training they certainly taught "sacred gymnastics."

And the purity of sentiment is not confined to goodness and gentleness. We see hate and violence in the gesture of Christ when he drives the money-changers out of the temple. Hate can be a pure feeling. But it must have nothing personal attached to it.

He said, in the presence of many of his pupils, that Judas was of all the disciples the closest to Jesus and the only one who knew all his secrets. He insisted upon my replying without equivocation to the question he put to me: "Do *you* believe that what I say about Judas is the truth?" I could only answer at that time, that there was no other explanation that made sense.

J.G. Bennett

Usually the man himself is not worth a brass farthing but he must have as teacher no other than Jesus Christ. To less he will not agree. And it never enters his head that even if he were to meet such a teacher as Jesus Christ, taking him as he is described in the Gospels, he would never be able to follow him because it would be necessary to be on the level of an apostle in order to be a pupil of Jesus Christ. Here is a definite law. The higher the teacher, the more difficult for the pupil.

A Christian is one who lives in accordance with Christ's precepts. Such as we are we cannot be Christians. In order to be Christians we must be able 'to do.' We cannot do; with us everything 'happens.' Christ says: 'Love your enemies,' but how can we love our enemies when we cannot even love our friends? Sometimes 'it loves' and sometimes 'it does not love.' Such as we are we cannot even

really desire to be Christians because, again, sometimes 'it desires' and sometimes 'it does not desire.'

In order to be a good Christian one must *be*. To be means to be master of oneself. If a man is not his own master he has nothing and he can have nothing. And he cannot be a Christian. He is simply a machine, an automaton. A machine cannot be a Christian. Think for yourselves is it possible for a motorcar or a typewriter or a gramophone to be Christian? They are simply things which are controlled by chance. They are not responsible. They are machines. To be a Christian means to be responsible. Responsibility comes later when a man even partially ceases to be a machine, and begins in fact, and not only in words, to desire to be a Christian.

He who desires the truth will not speak of love or of Christianity because he knows how far he is from these. Christian teaching is for Christians. And Christians are those who live, that is, who do everything, according to Christ's precepts. Can they who talk of love and morality live according to Christ's precepts? Of course they cannot; but there will always be talk of this kind, there will always be people to whom words are more precious than anything else. But this is a true sign! He who speaks like this is an empty man; it is not worth while wasting time on him.

No one has a right to call himself a Christian who does not carry out Christ's precepts. A man can say that he *desires* to be a Christian if he tries to carry out these precepts. If he does not think of them at all, or laughs at them, or substitutes for them some inventions of his own, or simply forgets about them, he has no right whatever to call himself a Christian.

...of the Essene Brotherhood, situated not far from the shores of the Dead Sea. This brotherhood was founded, according to certain surmises, twelve hundred years before the Birth of Christ; and it is said that in this brotherhood Jesus Christ received his first initiation.

But for the present, until your own conscience is formed, live according to the commandment of our Teacher Jesus Christ: "Do not do to others what you would not wish them to do to you."
Father Evlissi, who is now an aged man, happened to become one of the first persons on earth who has been able to live as our Divine Teacher Jesus Christ wished for us all.

My fourteen-year-old son is the only child at the small gathering in the evening. After dinner, around midnight, Gurdjieff gives advice. "I wish give real Christmas present. Imagine Christ. Somewhere in space is." Mr. Gurdjieff forms an oval with both his hands. "Make contact. Not to center, but to outside, periphery. Draw from there, draw in I, settle in you, Am. Do every day. Wish to become Christ. Become. Be.

Louise March

Beelzebubs Tales to His Grandson:

Chapter 38 Religion

That Sacred Individual, whom they call Jesus Christ, was actualized in the planetary body of a boy of the race of terrestrial three-brained beings which Saint Moses, by command from Above, chose from among the beings inhabiting the country of Egypt and led to the 'Land of Canaan.

So at the present time, in place of the teaching of the divine teacher Jesus Christ, which revealed the power of the All-lovingness and All-Forgivingness of our Creator suffering for beings, a teaching now exists that our Creator torments the souls of His followers.

By the way, I should tell you here that the teaching of Jesus Christ was preserved unchanged among a rather small group of terrestrial beings and, passing from generation to generation, has even come down to the present day in its original form.

This small group of terrestrial beings is called the 'Brotherhood of the Essenes.' The members of this brotherhood first succeeded in introducing the teaching of this divine teacher into their own being-existence, and then in transmitting it to later generations as a very good means of freeing themselves from the consequences of the properties of the organ kundabuffer.

Those people are called 'Jewish' among whom the divine Jesus appeared and existed, and whose beings tortured and crucified him on a cross. Although the present generation of Jews are not outright enemies of Jesus Christ, nonetheless each of them now holds the conviction that this Jesus who appeared among their ancestors and became a sacred personality for all the followers of the Christian religion was nothing but an 'impulsive and sick visionary.

This important event, connected with the appearance of this Sacred Individual among them, is denned, according to the understanding of your contemporary favorites, by the words, the 'death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.'

Well, my boy, when this Sacred Individual, Jesus Christ, actualized in the planetary body of a terrestrial three-brained being, had to be separated from his outer planetary coating, certain terrestrial three-brained beings performed this sacred process of almtznoshinoo on his kesdjan body, so that in view of the imminent violent interruption of his planetary existence, they would have the possibility of continuing to communicate with his divine Reason and of thus receiving the information about certain cosmic truths and specific instructions for the future which he had not had time to give them.

The information about what is called the 'Last Supper,' given in the collection of notes still existing among your contemporary favorites, which purports to be the true and accurate history of this Sacred Individual and is called by them 'Holy Writ,' was nothing other than an account of the preparation for the great sacrament of almtznoshinoo on the kesdjan body of Saint Jesus Christ.

It is interesting to remark that in this collection of notes from 'bits here and bits there,' which your favorites call 'Holy Writ,' there are many exact words and even whole sentences uttered at that Last Supper by Saint Jesus Christ himself, as well as by those directly initiated by him, who in this Holy Scripture are called 'disciples' or 'apostles' But your favorites, particularly the contemporary ones, understand these words and phrases, just as they do everything else, only literally, without any awareness of their inner meaning.

And this nonsensical, literal understanding is due, of course, to the fact that they have entirely ceased making the being-efforts necessary to fulfil in their common presence partkdolgduty, which alone can crystallize in three-brained beings the data for the capacity of genuine being-comprehension. That is why, my boy, they cannot even understand the fact that in the days when this Sacred Individual, Jesus Christ, was actualized among them and also when this Holy Writ of theirs was being complied, fewer words were used by those beings than are used at the present time.

They do not realize that at that period the 'being-mentation' of beings on this planet was closer to the normal mentation proper to three-brained beings, and consequently the transmission of ideas and thoughts was still what is called 'imagonisirian' or, as is otherwise said, 'allegorical.' In other words, in order to explain some action or other to themselves or to someone else, the terrestrial three-brained beings of that time referred to the understanding already present in them of similar actions in the past. But now all this takes place in them according to the principle called 'chainonizironness.'

I will tell you in particular about what is said in this Holy Writ, which has supposedly reached them in an unchanged form, about the most important, most reasonable, and most devoted of all the beings directly initiated by this Sacred Individual or, as they would say, about one of his 'apostles.'

This devoted and beloved apostle, initiated by Jesus Christ, was named Judas.

Anyone wishing to draw knowledge of the truth from the present version of this Holy Writ will arrive at the conviction, which will become fixed in his essence, that this Judas was the basest of all conceivable beings, and a conscienceless, double-faced traitor.

But in fact, not only was this Judas the most faithful and devoted of all the close followers of Jesus Christ, but it was solely thanks to his Reason and presence of mind that all the acts of this Sacred Individual could produce that result which, if it did not lead to the total destruction of the consequences of the properties of the organ kundabuffer in these unfortunate three-brained beings, was nevertheless, during twenty centuries, the source of nourishment and inspiration for the majority of them, and made their desolate existence at least a little endurable.

In order that you may represent more clearly to yourself the genuine individuality of this Judas and the significance of his manifestation, you should also know that when the Sacred Individual, Jesus Christ, intentionally actualized in a planetary body of a terrestrial being, was completely formed for responsible existence, he decided to carry out the mission imposed on him from Above to enlighten the Reason of these three-brained terrestrial beings by means of twelve beings chosen from different types, initiated and prepared by him personally.

But at the very peak of his divine activities, before having fulfilled his intention, that is, before having had time to explain certain cosmic truths and give the required instructions for the future, he was compelled by circumstances independent of him to allow the premature cessation of his planetary existence to take place.

He therefore decided, together with the twelve terrestrial beings he had intentionally initiated, to have recourse to the sacred sacrament of almtznoshinoo - the actualization of which was already well known to them, as they had already acquired in their presences all the data for its fulfilment - so that he should have the possibility, while he was still in that cosmic individual state, to finish the work of preparation, according to the plan he had designed for accomplishing the mission assigned to him from Above.

But, my boy, when they had decided on this and were ready to begin the preliminary preparations

required for this sacred sacrament, they saw that it was utterly impossible because it was too late, they were already surrounded by beings called 'guards,' and their arrest, with everything that would follow, was expected at any moment.

And it was just here that Judas intervened. This future saint, the inseparable and devoted helper of Jesus Christ, who is 'hated' and 'cursed' owing to the naive stupidity of the peculiar three-brained beings of your planet, then rendered his great objective service for which terrestrial three-brained beings of all subsequent generations should be grateful.

The wise and onerous initiative that he took upon himself with disinterested devotion was that at the moment of despair, on ascertaining that it was impossible to fulfil the required preparation for carrying out the sacred almtznoshinoo, this Judas, now a saint, leaped to his feet and hurriedly said: 'I will go and do everything necessary so that you have the possibility to fulfil this sacred preparation without hindrance. Meanwhile, set to work at once. '

Having said this, he approached Jesus Christ and, after speaking with him aside for a few moments, he received his blessing and hurriedly left. Thus the others were able to complete without hindrance everything necessary for the accomplishment of the sacred process of almtznoshinoo.

After what I have just said, you will doubtless understand how the terrestrial three-brained beings of the two types I described distort every truth, for their various egoistic aims, and have done so to such an extent that in the case of Judas, now a saint, thanks to whom alone they have benefited for twenty centuries from a blessed hearth of tranquility in the midst of their desolate existence, there has been crystallized in the presence of beings of all later generations this unprecedentedly unjust representation.

I think myself that if Judas was portrayed in their Holy Writ in this way, it may have been because it was necessary for someone or other belonging to the mentioned types to belittle for a certain purpose the significance of Jesus Christ himself.

That is to say, it would make him appear so naive, so unable to feel and see beforehand, in a word, so unperfected that, in spite of knowing this Judas and existing with him for so long, he failed to sense and be aware that this nearest disciple of his was a perfidious traitor, who would sell him for thirty worthless pieces of silver.